

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method in a data processing system for sharing text in an electronic book amongst a plurality of electronic books, the method comprising:
receiving a user input selecting the text from the an electronic book to form selected text, wherein the text is at least one of (i) a notated passage of text in the electronic book and (ii) a highlighted passage of text in the electronic book; and
automatically sending the selected text to each electronic book for a designated set of recipients in response to receiving the user input selecting the text to thereby share the text amongst the plurality of electronic books.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
displaying a list wherein the designated set of recipients is selected from the list.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected text is highlighted text.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the highlighted text is text in a different color from unselected text, bolded text, and text with a different font type from unselected text.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
storing the selected text in a data structure.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the data structure is a download file.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sending step sends the selected text to the designated set of recipients using a communications link.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sending step sends the selected text to the designated set of recipients in an electronic mail message.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, whercin the selected text is located in a body of the electronic mail message.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the selected text is located in an attachment attached to the electronic mail message.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A method in a data processing system for sharing text in an electronic book, the method comprising:

receiving selected text from at least one remote electronic book through a communications link to the data processing system;

responsive to a user input, sorting the selected text from the at least one remote electronic book using a selection criteria to form sorted text;

displaying the sorted text; and

responsive to a user input selecting at least a portion of the sorted text being displayed, highlighting portions of the electronic book based on the user input, whrcin the highlighted portions of the electronic book correspond to the selected text received from that at least one remote electronic book.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein selection criteria is used to sort and group the selected text.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the selection criteria includes at least one of popularity, name of a user originating text within the selected text, and subject matter of portions of text within the selected text.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the selected text includes passages from the at least one remote electronic book, and a copy of the passages from the at least one remote electronic book is also contained in the electronic book.

19. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the selected text includes annotations made by a user.

20. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the selection criteria is received from a user input.

21. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the selection criteria is received with the selected text.

22. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the sorted text excludes a portion of the selected text.

23. (Currently amended) A data processing system for sharing text ~~in an electronic book amongst a plurality of electronic books~~, the data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a user input selecting the text from ~~the~~ ~~an~~ electronic book, wherein the text is at least one of (i) a notated passage of text in the electronic book and (ii) a highlighted passage of text in the electronic book; and

sending means for automatically sending the highlighted text to each electronic book for the designated set of recipients in response to receiving the user input selecting the text ~~to thereby share the text amongst the plurality of electronic books~~.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A data processing system for sharing text in an electronic book, a data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving selected text from at least one remote electronic book through a communications link to the data processing system;

receiving means for receiving selection criteria for the selected text;

sorting means for sorting the selected text with respect to the selection criteria to form sorted text, wherein said sorting step occurs in response to a user input; and

displaying means for displaying the sorted text; and

highlighting means, responsive to a user input selecting at least a portion of the sorted text being displayed, for highlighting portions of the electronic book based on the user input, wherein the highlighted portions of the electronic book correspond to the selected text received from that at least one remote electronic book.

26. (Currently amended) A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a communications unit connected to the bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes as set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to receive a user input selecting the text from ~~the an~~ electronic book, wherein the text is at least one of (i) a notated passage of text in the electronic book and (ii) a highlighted passage of text in the electronic book; and automatically send the highlighted text to each electronic book for the designated set of recipients in response to receiving the user input selecting the text.

27. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for sharing highlighted text ~~in an electronic book amongst a plurality of electronic books~~, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a user input selecting the text from ~~the an~~ electronic book, wherein the text is at least one of (i) a notated passage of text in the electronic book and (ii) a highlighted passage of text in the electronic book; and

second instructions for automatically sending the highlighted text to each electronic book for the designated set of recipients in response to receiving the user input selecting the text.